

For Immediate Release:
April 20, 2004

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**San José Named One of
“America’s Most Livable Communities”**
Partners for Livable Communities cites San José accomplishments

San José – San José was named one of “America’s Most Livable Communities” by Partners for Livable Communities, a national group based in Washington, D.C., today (April 20, 2004). The award recognizes American communities that have raised the banner of “livability” as a standard of excellence for municipal performance.

San José Mayor Ron Gonzales accepted the award today at the announcement ceremonies held at the National Press Club in Washington. Although 30 communities of all sizes across the nation were recognized today, San José is one of only three large cities to receive the distinction.

[See www.mostlivable.org for more information about the award, and www.livable.com for information about Partners for Livable Communities.]

“Our residents have long known that San José is an outstanding place to live, work, and raise families,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales in accepting the award.

“I’m proud and delighted that San José has received this national recognition for our accomplishments and our strong and successful commitment to improve our neighborhoods, protect our residents, and adapt to the dynamic economy of the new century.”

The communities honored in 2004 were evaluated on their strategies, visions, and actions in preparing for changes in the economic environment, as well as for creativity, leadership and collaborative efforts across ten areas: City Center, Housing, Regionalism, Tourism, Leadership, Neighborhoods, Environment, New Economy, Human Development, and Finance.

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San José was selected as one of “America’s Most Livable Communities” based on the its unique characteristics in several areas:

- San José is consistently ranked as the Safest Big City in America based on annual FBI crime statistics as a result of excellent police and fire departments that work closely with community groups and neighborhoods to protect residents.
- Its Strong Neighborhoods Initiative creatively delivers City services and neighborhood improvements by working in partnership with residents and businesses to define grassroots priorities, organize City resources around those priorities, and develop neighborhood leaders.
- San José actively collaborates with business, civic and nonprofit entities for effective delivery of public services and projects. A recent creative example is the new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Library that was built in partnership with San José State University and is the first library in the nation that serves both as the City’s and as the University’s main library.
- The population of San José is one of the most diverse urban mixes in the nation with approximately one third each Anglo, Latino, and Asian, which has enriched the city’s cultural environment and strengthens the city’s competitive position as a global center for trade and technology innovation.
- Over the past four years San José voters have approved \$600 million in public investments to improve city parks, libraries and public safety facilities that will be built over the coming ten years.
- San José maintains a high bond rating despite a lagging economy that has led to falling bond ratings for the State of California and other California cities.
- With the development of a forward-thinking long-term economic strategy, San José is able to adapt and be competitive in the new global economy.

Partners for Livable Communities announced the selection of *America’s Most Livable Communities* today (Tuesday, April 20) at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. John Snow, United States Secretary of the Treasury, presented the keynote address.

Partners for Livable Communities is a non-profit leadership organization working to improve the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development, and social equity. Since its founding in 1977, Partners has helped communities set a common vision for the future, discover and use new resources for community and economic development and build public/private coalitions to further their goals through technical assistance, leadership training, workshops, charettes, research and publications.

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